11.0 ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION POTENTIAL OF THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES

NEPA requires an analysis of the relationship between a project's short-term impacts on the environment, and the effects that these impacts may have on the maintenance and enhancement of the long-term productivity of the affected environment. A discussion of the energy requirements and conservation potential of the various alternatives is not a specific requirement under CEQA.

Implementation of the proposed alternatives would entail the short-term use of energy resources. Consumption of certain resources such as energy in the form of electricity, and energy derived from fossil fuels would be required for construction of the build alternatives, and would be similar for Alternatives A, B, and C. This energy requirement would be commensurate with that of other roadway projects of similar size.

After construction, operational energy requirements of Bautista Canyon Road would be less with implementation of Alternative A, B, or C than with the No Action alternative, Alternative D. Improving the 13.2 km (8.2 mi) segment of Bautista Canyon Road would result in a smoother, safer, and faster roadway surface, thereby reducing energy requirements in the long-term for vehicles using the roadway, when compared to the unimproved road. Energy requirements for maintenance of the improved roadway would be substantially less than for Alternative D (No Action), which would continue to require periodic re-grading of the 13.2 km (8.2 mi) dirt segment.